

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY ASUNCION
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3066
INFO AMEMBASSY BRASILIA
AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASUNCION 2021

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OAS, EGEN, PORG, PA
SUBJECT: OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY

REF: STATE 123344

1. IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT PARAGUAY WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE. THE FOREIGN MINISTER HAS LITTLE INTEREST IN THE THEME OF RESTURCTURING THE OAS, ALTHOUGH HE IS GLOOMY OVER THE GAP BETWEEN THE THEORY AND THE PRACTICE OF THE INTER-AMERICAN SYSTEM. PARAGUAY HAS NO SERIOUS COMPLAINTS AGAINST U.S. FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY. HUMAN RIGHTS WILL BE ITS PARTICULAR CONCERN.

2. AS WE HAVE REPORTED, PARAGUAY WILL COME BEFORE THE OAS GENERAL ASSEMBLY WITH A RECORD OF SUBSTANTIAL IMPROVEMENT IN ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD. NOGUES, LIKE ALL THE LATIN AMERICAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, LOOKS ON THE INFORMAL DIALOGUE AS AN ARENA IN WHICH THE AMERICAN SECRETARY OF STATE MUST GRAPPLE FACE-TO-FACE WITH THE VARIOUS SHORTCOMINGS AND CONTRADICTIONS OF U.S. POLICY AS PERCEIVED BY HIS LATIN AMERICAN COLLEAGUES. THE FOREIGN MINISTER WILL NOT WANT TO DISCUSS ITS HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IN THAT
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CONTECT AS IT WILL BE PARAGUAY'S PUBLIC CONTENTION THAT THERE HAS NEVER BEEN ANY SERIOUS PROBLEM OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THIS COUNTRY AND IF THINGS ONCE WERE WORSE AND NOW ARE BETTER, THEN THE IMPROVING SITUATION CERTAINLY HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH U.S. POLICY OF INFLUENCE. (EVERYONE KNOWS BETTER BUT THIS IS A COUNTRY OF ILLUSIONS WHERE THINGS ARE WHAT THE MAN IN CHARGE SAYS THEY ARE.)

THEREFORE, PARAGUAY WILL KEEP ITS POWDER DRY UNTIL THE IAHRC REPORT COMES UP FOR DISCUSSION.

3. THE ONLY POSSIBILITY I CAN SEE FOR PARAGUAY TAKING AN ACTIVE ROLE IS IF, AS I CONSIDER VERY POSSIBLE, NO ONE WANTS TO ATTACK THE U.S. ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN FRONT OF THE SECRETARY. IF THAT HAPPENS, BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND OTHERS MIGHT ENCOURAGE NOGUES, THE POLISHED, UNDERSTATED DIPLOMAT, TO DELIVER A STATEMENT, PROBABLY PREPARED BY ITAMARATY, EXPRESSING IN REASON-ABLE AND GENERAL TERMS SOME OF THE DOUBTS AND DIFFUCULTIES LATIN AMERICA HAS WITH THE U.S. EMPHASIS ON HUMAN RIGHTS.
WHITE

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Message Attributes

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